



PRESS RELEASE
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COPS OFFICE AWARDS \$8.4 MILLION IN GRANTS
TO HIRE NEW LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN FLORIDA

Washington, D.C. - The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) announced \$78 million in hiring grants to local law enforcement agencies today. These grants will fund the hiring of 1004 officers in 181 cities and towns across the country. In Florida more than \$8.4 million in grants will fund 113 full time positions in 15 agencies. These officers will be engaged in community policing and homeland security activities.

Today's grants were awarded through COPS Universal Hiring Program (UHP). The program provides up to 75 percent of the total cost of salary and benefits of each new officer over a period of three years, up to a maximum of \$75,000 per officer. State or local funds pay the remainder, and each grantee is required to retain the COPS-funded positions for a minimum of one local budget cycle after the grant expires.

Including grants announced today, COPS has awarded more than \$6.8 billion in

grants to over 12,900 law enforcement agencies to fund the hiring of more than 117,000 officers. In addition to helping local law enforcement agencies expand their ranks, the COPS Office also provides community policing training and technical assistance.

For detailed information on the COPS program and which agencies in your area received grants, visit: <http://www.usdoj.gov/cops/home.htm>